

Constantine

been sent to all whose presence was desired, an< these had entered and taken their places in grav and orderly fashion on either side of the hall. Thei expectant silence fell upon the company. As th moment for the Emperor's entry approached, som of the members of his immediate entourage began t arrive, but Eusebius is careful to mention that ther were no guards or officers in armour, " only friend who avowed the faith of Christ." At the signal tha Constantine was at hand, the whole assembly swep to its feet, and the Emperor passed through thei midst like " some heavenly angel of God, clad i glittering raiment that seemed to gleam and flas with bright effulgent rays of light, encrusted as J was with gold and precious stones."

Yet, thoug Constantine was thus dazzling in externals, it ws evident — at least to the penetrating eye of th courtier bishop — that his mind was " beautified b pity and godly fear." For was not this revealed b his downcast eyes, his heightened colour, and h: modest bearing? Advancing to the upper end c the hall, Constantine stood facing the assembb while a low golden stool was brought for him, an then, when the bishops motioned to him to h seated, he took his seat, and the whole audience fo lowed his example. Beyond doubt, most of th bishops then gazed for the first time

upon the Emperor to whom they could not be sufficiently grateful for all he had done for the Church, and Constantine himself might well be flattered and pleased at the homage, evidently sincere, that was being offered to him, as well as a little nervous at the thought th;